

TITLE VI - CLASS-SIZE REDUCTION

Section 601, class-size [ESEA, Title VI]. Section 601 of the bill would replace Title VI of the ESEA with a multi-year extension of the 1-year initiative, enacted in the Department's appropriations Act for fiscal year 1999, to help States and LEAs improve educational outcomes through reducing class sizes in the early grades, as follows:

ESEA, §6001, findings. Section 6001 of the ESEA would set out 8 findings in support of the new Title VI.

ESEA, §6002, purpose. Section 6002 of the ESEA would provide that the purpose of Title VI is to help States and LEAs recruit, train, and hire 100,000 additional teachers, in order to: (1) reduce class sizes nationally, in grades 1 through 3, to an average of 18 students per regular classroom; and (2) improve teaching in the early grades so that all students can learn to read independently and well by the end of the third grade.

ESEA, §6003, authorization of appropriations. Section 6003 of the ESEA would authorize the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary to carry out Title VI for fiscal years 2001 through 2005.

ESEA, §6004, allocations to States. Section 6004(a) of the ESEA would direct the Secretary to reserve a total of not more than 1 percent of each year's appropriation for Title VI to make payments, on the basis of their respective needs, to the several outlying areas and to the Secretary of the Interior for activities in schools operated or supported by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

After reserving funds for the outlying areas and the BIA, section 6004(b) would direct the Secretary to allocate the remaining amount among the States on the basis of their respective shares under Part A of Title I of the ESEA or under Title II of the ESEA, whichever was greater, for the previous fiscal year. Because these allocations would exceed the amount available, they would then be proportionately reduced. If a State chooses not to participate in the program, or fails to submit an approvable application, the Secretary would reallocate that State's allocation to the remaining States.

ESEA, §6005, applications. Section 6005(a) of the ESEA would require the SEA of each State desiring to receive a Title VI grant to submit an application to the Secretary.

Subsection (b) would require each application to include: (1) the State's goals for using program funds to reduce average class sizes in regular classrooms in grades 1 through 3; (2) a

description of the SEA's plan for allocating program funds within the State; (3) a description of how the State will use other funds, including other Federal funds, to reduce class sizes and improve teacher quality and reading achievement within the State; and (4) an assurance that the SEA will submit such reports and information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

Subsection (c) would direct the Secretary to approve a State's application if it meets the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) and holds reasonable promise of achieving the program's purposes.

ESEA, §6006, within-State allocations. Section 6006(a) of the ESEA would permit participating States to reserve up to one percent of each year's Title I allocation for the cost of administering the program, and direct them to distribute all remaining funds to LEAs. A State would distribute 80 percent of its allocation on the basis of the relative number of children from low-income families in LEAs, and the remaining 20 percent on the basis of school-age children enrolled in public and private nonprofit schools in LEAs.

Subsection (b) would provide for the reallocation of an LEA's award to other LEAs if it chooses not to participate or fails to submit an approvable application.

ESEA, §6007, local applications. Section 6007 of the ESEA would require each LEA that wishes to receive Title VI funds to submit an application to its SEA that describes its program to reduce class size by hiring qualified teachers.

ESEA, §6008, uses of funds. Section 6008(a) of the ESEA would permit each participating LEA to use up to 3 percent of its subgrant for the costs of administering its Title VI program.

Subsection (b) would permit each LEA to use up to a total of 15 percent of each year's Title VI funds to: (1) assess new teachers for their competency in content knowledge and teaching skills; (2) assist new teachers to take any tests required to meet State certification requirements; and (3) provide professional development to teachers.

Subsection (c) would require each LEA to use the rest of its Title VI funds to recruit, hire, and train certified teachers for the purpose of reducing class size in grades 1 through 3 to 18 children.

Subsection (d) would prohibit an LEA from using its Title VI funds to increase the salary of, or to provide benefits to, a teacher who it already employs (or has employed).

Subsection (e) would permit an LEA that has already reduced class size in grades 1 through 3 to 18 or fewer children to use its Title VI funds to make further class -size reductions in grades 1 through 3, reduce class sizes in other grades, or for activities, including professional development, to improve teacher quality.

Subsection (f) would permit an LEA whose subgrant is too small to pay the starting salary for a new teacher to use its subgrant funds to form a consortium with one or more other LEAs for the purpose of reducing class size; to help pay the salary of a full-time or part-time teacher hired to reduce class size; or, if the subgrant is less than \$10,000, for professional development.

ESEA, §6009, cost-sharing requirement. Section 6009(a) of the ESEA would allow program funds to pay the full cost of local programs under the Act in LEAs with child-poverty rates greater than 50 percent. The maximum Federal share for LEAs with child-poverty rates below 50 percent would be 65 percent.

Subsection (b) would require an LEA to provide the non-Federal share of a project through cash expenditures from non-Federal sources. However, an LEA operating one or more schoolwide programs under section 1114 of the ESEA could use funds under Part A of Title I of that Act to pay the non-Federal share of activities under this program that benefit those schoolwide programs, so long as the LEA meets the Title I requirement to ensure that services provided with State and local funds in Title I schools are at least comparable to services provided with State and local funds in non-Title I schools. This option would not, however, be available with respect to schools operating schoolwide programs through a waiver of the normal eligibility rules governing schoolwide programs (current section 1114(a)(1)(B), which the bill would re-enact as section 1114(a)(2)).

ESEA, §6010, nonsupplanting. Section 6010 of the ESEA would require each participating LEA to use its Title VI funds to increase the overall amount of its expenditures for the combination of: (1) teachers in regular classrooms in schools receiving assistance; (2) assessing new teachers and assisting them to take tests required for State certification; and (3) professional development for teachers.

ESEA, §6011, annual State reports. Section 6011 of the ESEA would require each participating State to submit an annual report to the Secretary on its activities under Title VI.

ESEA, §6012, participation of private school teachers. Section 6012 of the ESEA would require each LEA to provide for

the equitable participation of teachers from private schools in professional development activities it carries out with program funds.

ESEA, §6013, definition. Section 6013 of the ESEA would define "State", for the purpose of Title VI, as meaning each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The outlying areas, which would otherwise be treated as States under the definition in current §14101(27) (to be redesignated as §11101(27)), would be funded through the special reservation in section 6004(a), rather than through the formula allocations to States in section 6004(b).